



PUTNAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, Representative Dillon and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee,

I am the Superintendent of the Putnam School District. I am writing to express my concern about the current proposed budget of Governor Malloy which severely cuts funding for Regional Action Councils. I am offering testimony in strong opposition to these proposed cuts which will devastate these regional action councils as well as the programs they administer. In my position as superintendent, I have witnessed firsthand the valuable services that are provided by Regional Action Councils (RACs) particularly the Northeast Communities against Substance Abuse (NECASA). In fact, I was so impressed with NECASA, that I became a Board of Directors member.

As part of its' mission, NECASA has purchased evidence-based health curricula and funded teacher training in ten area school districts. In addition, NECASA mentored the Town of Putnam as we applied for Federal Drug-Free grants. These grants will bring over one million dollars into the community to help combat drug involvement of our citizens. NECASA has also conducted school surveys in our schools and provided analysis of these surveys to the district. The school system has used this analysis to plan proactive measures for dealing with our students, as they experiment with drugs and alcohol. The proposed cuts to the Regional Action Councils will hamper the Putnam community as well as all communities across the state as they fight the scourge of addiction. The proposed cuts will remove valuable resources from some of our most needy citizens.

The small amount of money spent on Regional Action Centers, such as NECASA, is money well spent! It is inconceivable to me as an educator that the State of Connecticut would cut valuable programs which in the long run saves the state money. I urge you to not only restore the funding for Regional Action Councils to the current level of funding, but to increase the funding for these valuable organizations. Thank you for considering my testimony. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

William J. Hull
Superintendent